

FOR DARKEST NEW YORK.

Light at Last
In the Earth's Most
Crowded Spot.

THE BONE ALLEY SLUM MUST GO.

Five Hundred People in
Five Houses—A High
Death Rate—Children
of the Poor.

Light is about to be let into darkest New York. The ordinary citizen has no conception of how dark—how very dark—darkest New York really is, and how very, very welcome the light will be. Darkest New York is down on the East Side. It is not the wickedest spot on earth; it is not the most poverty-stricken spot on earth, but it is the most crowded spot on earth. Nowhere else in the whole world are so many people crowded into so small a space; nowhere else in the whole world are air and light so sorely needed; nowhere else in the whole world is there so little of each for so many people.

The small park which has just been so intelligently located by Mr. Jacob A. Riss and his associates on Mayor Strong's Citizens' Committee, will take both light and air into the very heart of all this teeming wilderness of tenements. So light is about to be let into darkest New York.

But that is only half of what the park will do; it will not only take light into the district, but it will wipe out its blackest spot. It is the second step which New York has taken along a path already travelled by almost all the really great cities of the world—the path of slum destruction. In order to make the park, New York will have to destroy Bone Alley and some of its miserable surroundings.

Bone Alley is unique. For years it has been the centre of a plague spot. It has left its wretched mark on hundreds of sunken "grown-up" cheeks; it has damned countless children to lives of illness. Lined by that bane of the New York poor—the rear tenement—it has served an evil purpose. Its power for wrong has been aggravated by the work of the people who have lived in it—rag pickers and bone pickers are too likely to find pestilence among their pickings—but of itself it has been stuffy enough to suffocate health; it has been dark enough to hide sin—and sin lurks wherever it can hide. The loss of Bone Alley will be good riddance.

It is not an unpicturesque spot, this slum. In all, two blocks of filthy, ramshackle, reeking old tenements will be destroyed. In the five dingy buildings on Bone Alley live 500 people. They are Italians, full of the life and color, and—dirty. From the entrance on Willett street the great red brick barracks with their four tiers of rusted iron fire escapes, the huddle of filthy push carts, the swarm of children—merry because they do not know the misery of Bone Alley's meaning—make a striking picture for some clever artist to paint on canvas. Between the buildings swing myriad lines, hung with the embarrassing banners which make the family washings of 500 Italians. The sky is hidden by them. One pauses, appalled, if he stops to think of the burdens these lines would bear were their owners more scrupulously clean. Everywhere are the children. Big eyes peer down on the investigating stranger from between the iron bars of the fire escapes. Grimy hands appealing for pennies are thrust from the dark places beneath neglected push carts. Pathetically puny infant faces peep from the folds of copious shawls in the arms of tiny nurses scarcely large enough to keep themselves from harm. Occasionally a ruddy face, so full of health and strength that it might be that of a farmer's child, breaks the monotony of unpleasant visions, but these surprises are not frequent. The women are the women of the tenements, bent by hard work, but gossiping about their little matters incessantly. The men are not clean, though that is not wholly their fault. Some are drunk, but most of them seem sober and industrious—deeply engrossed by the problem of how to pay rent in Bone Alley. One inebriate staggers uniquely on home-made crutches. Inside the buildings the halls are dark, dirty and narrow. The rooms, incredibly cluttered, are half of them without windows opening to the outer air. The arrangement is that which will pay the landlord highest rents (and the doctor most fees) from the smallest possible space. Firetraps they are, every one of these buildings, despite their fire escapes. Most New York tenements are. It is a wonder that fire has not already cleared the area without waiting for the coming of a park.

And Bone Alley is only a little less desirable than the whole neighborhood. It is well that it should go!

How sadly some change is needed here is shown by the fact that the death rate in the sanitary district in which Bone Alley is located is 49.97, against 22.75 for the whole city.

The law which makes the small park possible is one of those passed last year, through the efforts of the Tenement House Committee, of which Richard Watson Glider was the moving spirit. In its report the committee said:

"The area of the city below Fourteenth street is 2,528 acres, or nearly four square miles (3.95). The estimated population of this area on July 1 was 707,120. The park area is 64,654 acres, or but 2.55 per cent of the whole area, while the proportion of the park area inside the city limits is a little over 7.5 per cent of the whole territory."

"There is an area in this same district which may be outlined as follows: Beginning at the corner of Delancey and Lewis streets and going north on Lewis to Fifth street, along Fifth street to Second Avenue, Second Avenue to Fourth street, Fourth street to Mercer street, Mercer street to Bleeker street, Bleeker street to Carmine, Carmine to Varick, Varick to Houston, Houston to Hudson, Hudson to Canal,

Canal to Bowery, the Bowery to Catharine, Catharine to Monroe, Monroe to Montgomery, Montgomery to Ridge, Ridge to Delancey and Delancey to Lewis, to the place of beginning. This area contains 711 acres. The district is 750 feet distant from either river, and 500 feet from any existing or proposed park. Yet it is the home of about 334,000 people. This is nearly one-sixth of the total estimated population of New York on July 1, 1894; and much more than the number of inhabitants of the entire city of either Cincinnati or San Francisco, as given by the census of 1890. The density for the whole area rises to 476.6 persons per acre. Part of this area has double this density, and as a whole the district is the most crowded in the world."

It is this area which will be lightened by the new park. Another must soon be located.



THE SUNSHINE OF BONE ALLEY

located east of the Bowery and Catharine street, and south of Fourth street.

So darkest New York is in a good way to be well lighted.

SPRING MILLINERY.

This Season's Hats are the Loveliest That Have Been Shown in Many Years.

The beautiful hats shown on the page of photographs in last Sunday's Easter Journal attracted the delighted attention of thousands and thousands of women. They proved that never have Spring fashions been so lovely as they are this year.

All the pictures on the page were made from photographs of pretty New York girls. The hats and bonnets which these pretty girls wore were the handsomest French models which could be found in the establishments of the most tasteful and exclusive of the Paris modistes, and were the importation of James McCreery & Co., of West Twenty-third street and Eleventh street and Broadway, who have opened millinery on such magnificent lines in their fine new store that the photographer had a very superb and varied assortment to select from when he went there to find the latest creations in millinery art, with which to carry out his original idea of presenting the Easter designs in bonnets and hats in the form of photographs on lovely, living heads.

Everything is being used this season in millinery—feathers, laces, ribbons, passementeries, straws, braids, alpacas, and more and above everything else, flowers. Flowers so beautiful and so natural that they really look as they are piled up in McCreery's handsome show cases as if they had just been culled in some exotic garden. They lie there in rich luxuriance—roses upon violets, and orchids upon lilies, chrysanthemums midst leaves and foliage, so natural that one marvels at the art which can in its perfection almost outlive nature.

When McCreery & Co. only occupied their Broadway store they did not include millinery in their establishment; but, now that the spacious beauty of their new building offers such a field for display, they have gone into millinery on a very extensive scale, and they have fitted up the handsomest millinery parlors in New York City. The results of their new venture have been more than satisfactory, and many of the other large houses have felt the keenness of the rivalry. The millinery department is in charge of Miss Emily, a remarkably talented and successful manager.

great amount of the success of McCreery's first season in millinery must be attributed to her.

SOME THEATRICAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Concerning Plays and Players Well Known to the Public.

The Garden of Palms, Oriental Divan and Roof Garden, which are to be adjuncts of Proctor's Pleasure Palace, will be opened to the public about June 1.

The Palm Garden and the Oriental room beneath occupy the new annex to the Palace. The tropical embellishment of the Garden includes palm trees fifty feet in height that have been purchased in Germany and are now upon the ocean. A sliding glass roof will assure an outdoor aspect in pleasant weather and shelter during cold or stormy periods. A grand passage, with mirrors and ablaze with electric lights, softened by many colored

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Mr. Edmund Brabant, the extemporaneous pianist, will appear at Harry Sanderson's benefit this evening at Tony Pastor's Theatre. Mr. Sanderson has a novelty. He has discovered a young comedian who will undoubtedly create a surprise. Weber and Fields will present a new act, and among the many other performers will be Matthews and Bulger, Sam Bernard, Bonnie Thornton, Edmund Brabant, Henri Casman, Miss Flossie, Kittie Mitchell, Mike Bernard, Miss

trick lights, softened by many colored

glasses, will connect the Oriental Divan with the German cafe, which has recently been decorated after the style of the ballroom in the Holland House, London.

The double stage between the grand auditorium and the Garden of Palms will be used for the first time, the effect being that of a vast summer garden, with two distinct audiences, facing, each in plain view of the other.

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